

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00098 271411Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

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R 271321Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1224

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 98

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, XG, UK, EI

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: FINAL SESSION SET FOR MARCH 2

1. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BUSINESS COMMITTEE DOMINATED BY MAJORITY UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) HAS DECIDED CONVENTION WILL END MARCH 2 WITH DEBATE ON UUUC MOTIONS CALLING ON GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT ORIGINAL MAJORITY CONVENTION REPORT AND CRITICIZING GOVERNMENT FOR INEFFECTUAL SECURITY POLICY. VANGUARD LEADER WILLIAM CRAIG ON BEHALF HIS FOUR-MAN CONVENTION PARTY HAS ENTERED SEVERAL AMENDMENTS TO THESE MOTIONS INCLUDING DELETION OF CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT AND ADDITION OF CALL FOR REFERENDUM ON TEMPORARY EMERGENCY VOLUNTARY COALITION WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ORIGINAL UUUC REPORT. VANGUARD MEMBERS WILL PROBABLY GET TO SPEAK ON THESE AMENDMENTS BUT UUUC MAY ATTEMPT 6 PM GUILLOTINE.

2. SO FAR ONLY ALLIANCE HAS ANNOUNCED INTENTION SUPPORT VANGUARD IN DEBATE. UNIONIST PARTY NORTHERN IRELAND THE ONE DELEGATE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND LABOUR PARTY WILL PROBABLY SUPPORT IN END. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) HAS NOT ANNOUNCED INTENTION AND THERE SIGNS OF SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT AMONG CONVENTION MEMBERS. THOSE OPPOSED TO REFERENDUM BELIEVE EVEN IF COALITION PROPOSAL NOT DEFEATED IN REFERENDUM BASE OF SUPPORT FOR SUBSEQUENT ELECTION WOULD BE TOO WWEAK TO ACHIEVE

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PAGE 02 BELFAS 00098 271411Z

MEANINGFUL REPRESENTATION IN CABINET.

3. LARGEST PROTESTANT PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATION, ULSTER  
DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (UDA) AND TWO OTHERS FEB. 27 CONTRADICTED  
REPORT EMANATING FROM UNITED LOYALIST CENTRAL COORDINATING  
COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN (BARR) THAT PROTESTANT PARAMILITARIES  
FAVORED REFERENDUM ON COALITION. PRESIDENT OF OFFICIAL SINN  
FEIN TOMAS MACGIOLLA ANNOUNCED HIS ORGANIZATION OPPOSED TO FURTHER  
DIRECT RULE, CALLED FOR MORE DEMOCRATIC LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND  
STATED OPPOSITION TO COALITION. REPORTING OFFICER HAS PURSUED  
SUBJECT OF REFERENDUM IN CONVERSATION WITH LOCAL LEADERS BOTH  
SIDES OF COMMUNITY. THOSE RESIDING BELFAST GENERALLY BELIEVE  
ELECTORATE WOULD FAVOR VOLUNTARY COALITION IN REFERENDUM. THOSE  
OUTSIDE BELFAST GENERALLY BELIEVE MAJORITY PROTESTANT ELECTORATE  
WOULD REJECT COALITION.  
SPICER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, COMMITTEES, PLANNING MEETINGS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 FEB 1976  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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